Purchase of crude oil from the Soviet Union

*57. SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether contracts have been entered into with the Government of USSR and other countries for the purchase of crude oil and petroleum products; and

(b) if so, what are the names of the other countries and the quantity of crude oil and other petroleum products for which contracts have been signed with each of them and the amounts respectively required to be paid to them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI): (a) and (b) Contract has been finalised with UAE for the import of 75 million tonnes of crude oil. Negotiations are underway for concluding contracts for import of crude oil with the following countries as under:

	(In million tonnes)
(i) USSR	3.5
(ii) Saudi Arabia	2.0
(iii) Iraq	1.0

A quantity of 1 million tonnes of crude oil has also been purchased from Iran against a spot tender to be adjusted against a term contract as and when signed.

It is proposed to conclude a contract with USSR for the import of 2.5 million tonnes of products.

It is not possible to indicate the amounts that are required to be paid for these imports as the contracts are on variable market related pricing basis and the value of imports will be known only after the end of the year.

Dismissal of Chairman of the Cement Corporation of India

*58. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA :
SHRI VIRENDRA VERMA :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Chairman and Managing Director of the Cement Corporation of India was dismissed for shoddy performance of the Cement Corporation of India and if so, what are the details thereof; and

(b) what further steps are being taken by Government to improve the functioning of the Cement Corporation of India?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY AND THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI) : (a) and (b) The performance of the Cement Corporation of India was fast deteriorating. The net profit of the Corporation was reduced from Rs. 24.87 crores in 1982-83 to Rs. 7.41 crores in 1983-84 and the profit turned into loss of Rs. 1.65 crores in 1984-85. The loss during 1985-86 is estimated at Rs. 15.08 crores. Similarly, the capacity utilisation fell down from 87% in 1983-84 to 80% in 1984-85 and 72% in 1985-86. In view of the steady deterioration in the working of the CCI, Government of India appointed a Review Committee in January, 1986 under the Chairmanship of Dr. H.C. Visvesvaraya to make a comprehensive appraisal of the state of affairs of the CCI. The Review Committee appointed by Government covered various aspects of the working of the Cement Corporation of India and has submitted its findings and recommendations, *inter-alia*, on the following main points :—

1. Organisational and management aspects;

2. Financial and accounting aspects;

3. Technical and technological aspects;

4. Project planning and Management;

5. Capacity Utilisation;

6. Maintenance of plant and equipment and down-time analysis;

7. Inventory;

8. Cost of production;

9. Selling expenditure; and

10. Marketing in general, pricing etc.

On the basis of the findings/recommendations of the Committee, the services of Shri A.P. Mahaeshwar as Chairman & Managing Director of CCI were terminated on 27-5-86. Some other recommendations of the Committee like reduction in cost of production, improved maintenance etc. are already under implementation. Efforts are being made to cut down inventory. The other recommendations of the Committee are being studied and action in respect of these necessarily involves some time. An over-all improvement of the working of CCI is a continuous process and action is accordingly being taken both by CCI and Government on the various recmmendations of the Committee.

Report of the Committee on 'No Industry District'

*59. SHRI DHARAM CHANDER PRASHANT :
SHRI SURESH KALMADI :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether a Committee appointed by Government to go into the question of 'No Industry District' policy has submitted its report;

(b) whether Government are considering the concept of 'No Industry Taluka' in place of 'No Industry District';

(c) how many industries have been set up in the District of Gadh Shriroli of Maharashtra under the 'No Industry District' and how much funds have been allocated ther for; and

(d) whether there is any proposal to grant 'No Industry District' status to any other District in Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY AND THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI) (a) to (d) The Inter-Ministerial Committee set up to review and revise the Incentive Scheme for industrialisation of backward areas (including No Industry Districts) is likely to submit its report by the end of December, 1986. As per the terms of reference, the Committee would formulate a revised Incentive Scheme based on the concept of growth centres and distance criteria with emphasis on the development of infrastructure, with special components of the scheme being designed for hill areas and North-East and other remote areas, keeping in view also the suitability of various types of industries for location in these areas from the environmental angle.

During 1985-86 4 (four) letters of intent have been issued for setting up industries in the Gadchiroli district of Maharashtra. Under the Scheme of Central Assistance for Development of Infrastructure, an amount of Rs. 26 lakhs has been disbursed to the State Government as first instalment for development of infrastructure in Gadchiroli district.

At present there is no proposal to grant No Industry District status to any other district in Maharashtra.